

MISSION SAHARIENNE AUGIÉRAS-DRAPER, 1927-1928.

PORIFERA

by MAURICE BURTON,

ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, BRITISH MUSEUM
(NAT. HIST.), LONDON.

The freshwater sponges consist of fragments gathered from the shells of *Aetheria elliptica* Lamarck and represent two only of the 21 species and varieties hitherto recorded from the African continent. They are *Spongilla carteri* Bowerb. and *Potamolepis leubnitziae* Marshall.

I. SPONGILLA CARTERI Bowerbank.

(For synonymy *vide* Kirkpatrick, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1906, p. 219).

The sponge is represented by a few fragments, very dark brown in colour, whose skeleton agrees very closely with that of the sponge described by Kirkpatrick (*l. c.*) from Tanganyika.

Number, locality, etc. : Z 747, Bourem. Collected January 1st., 1928.

Previously known distribution. — Lake Victoria; Tanganyika; Bombay; Calcutta; Mauritius; Madura Is.; Java; Hungary.

2. POTAMOLEPIS LEUBNITZIAE Marshall.

P. leubnitziae Marshall, *Jen. Zeitschr.*, xvi, 1883, p. 553.

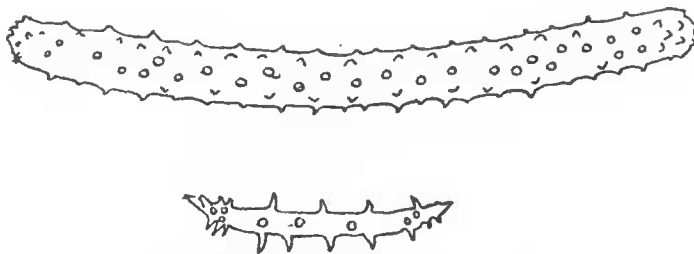


Fig. 1. — Spicules found in association with *Potamolepis leubnitziae* Marshall. $\times 600$.

The two sponges agree closely with the specimen figured by Marshall (*l. c.*, pl. xxiv, fig. 1-6). The ends of the smooth stron-

gyles, in the present specimens, may be simply rounded off or they may be faintly tylote. In addition to these spicules a number of slender oxea and strongyles, slightly shorter than the latter, are scattered between the meshes of the main skeleton. Apparently they represent the young stages of the large strongyles. This being so, the developing spicule commences as a very slender oxecote which becomes strongylote very early in development. In *P. charlaria* Marshall the dermal skeleton of oxea may represent nothing more than an abundance of young forms of the larger spicules and both it and *P. pechuelii* Marshall, from the same locality, may possibly prove synonymous with *P. leubnitziae*.

Number, locality, etc. : Z 1012, Z 1013, River Niger. Collected February 25 th. 1928.

Previously known distribution. — Congo River.

In addition to the two species already discussed, certain patches of spicules were found on one of the shells which may possibly represent another species of sponge hitherto unrecorded from Africa. Although it is impossible to give them a name, I have considered it worth while to figure typical examples of the two sorts of spicules (fig. 1).